



Whitstable Junior School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all managed to have some well-earned rest and relaxation over the festive period. The start of Term 3 is just around the corner and I am writing to you to confirm that **WJS will be opening on Monday 4th January 2021**. You may have heard yesterday that some primary schools have been asked to open only for critical worker children and vulnerable children. Schools in the Canterbury district, of which we are part, have not been asked to do this. Below is an extract from the latest Government guidance;

Primary schools

Primary schools should resume on-site provision as planned from their advertised first day of term and allow all pupils to attend as they have since the start of the school year.

They should continue to follow the advice set out in the actions for schools during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Testing for primary staff under the weekly and daily testing programmes (announced on 15 December for secondary schools) will begin in the second half of January.

A small number of primary schools have been asked to restrict access to children of critical workers and vulnerable children at the start of this term, and provide remote education for all other pupils. Guidance is available at Contingency framework for education and childcare settings.

Children for whom on-site provision is being provided should be recorded in line with the normal school attendance requirements.

Shielding advice is currently in place in tier 4 areas, and so all children still deemed clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend school.

We will continue to follow our systems of control to minimise the risk of virus transmission in school and ask that beyond the school grounds parents and carers adhere to the local restrictions in place for areas in tier 4. As you can see from the extract above testing in primary schools is mentioned. When I know more, I will update you. Please remember to wear a face mask when bringing your children to school and collecting them and to adhere to the social distancing guidelines. We ask that only one parent/carer accompanies their child on these journeys as this reduces the number of people gathering together.

We have made the decision to continue offering a packed lunch only option for school dinners. Music lessons provided by external teachers and after school clubs will not recommence for the time being. We will review all of these things before the end of the first week back and let you know what the plan is for the following week. We have been informed by Kindergarten Kids that breakfast club and afterschool club will be operating as normal from Monday 4th January.

I very much look forward to seeing you all next week, safe and well and raring to go for what surely must be a better year than 2020!

Warm regards,
Annie Knoupe
Headteacher

